

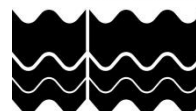
East Sussex County Council Schools' Forum

Friday 18 November 2022

08.30

Remote Meeting

East Sussex
County Council



Agenda

Item	Heading	Paper	Lead	Item for
1.	Welcome and Apologies	N	Chair	Note
2.	Minutes of previous meeting 16 September 2022	Y	Chair	Approval
3.	Matters Arising and Declaration of Interests	N	Chair	Discussion
4.	Growth Fund / Falling Rolls Fund	Y	Gary Langford	Approval
5.	DSG – Central School Services Block 2023/24	Y	Ed Beale	Approval
6.	School Funding Formula – 'Exceptional Circumstances' Funding Factor Update	N	Ed Beale	Information
	AOB			

Next Meeting: Friday 13 January 2023, 8.30am, Venue Remote

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EAST SUSSEX SCHOOLS' FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting of the Schools' Forum held remotely with Microsoft Teams on 16 September 2022

PRESENT

Secondary

Hugh Hennebry - **Chair** (Uckfield College)

Helen Key (Chailey School)

Secondary Governors

Monica Whitehead (Claverham Community College)

Secondary Academy

Phil Matthews (Hailsham Community College Academy Trust)

Tom Scully (University of Brighton Academies Trust)

Primary

Richard Blakeley (Harlands Primary)

Gemma White (The Bluebell Federation)

Laura Cooper (St John's CE School)

Primary Governors

Katherine Rabson Stark (South Ashdown Schools Federation)

Debra Vice Holt (Oak Tree Federation)

Primary Academy

James Freeston (King Offa Primary Academy)

Special Schools

Julie Campion (Grove Park School Crowborough)

Special Academy

Richard Preece (Saxon Mount and Torfield)

Jo Foulkes (SABDEN Multi Academy Trust)

Non School Members

Joanna Sanchez (Diocese of Arundel and Brighton)

Jon Gilbert (Diocese of Chichester)

Observers

Cllr Maples

Patrick Grant - DfE Representative

ESCC representatives

Cllr Bob Standley (Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability)

Alison Jeffery (Director Children's Services)

Nathan Caine (Head of ISEND)

Elizabeth Funge (Assistant Director Education)

Edward Beale (Schools Funding Manager)

Sarah Rice (Schools Finance Manager)

Rachel King (Clerk)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES (Note)

The chair welcomed all and thanked everyone for their attendance. A warm welcome was given to new members. Gemma White and Laura Cooper, representing headteachers in maintained primary schools and Debra Vice Holt, representing governors in the primary phase.

Cllr Wendy Maples joined for the second time as an observer. In addition, Patrick Grant, from the DfE attended as an observer also.

1.1 It was confirmed the meeting was quorate, recognising the apologies below.

1.2 Apologies received from:

- Mark Whiffin (Head of Finance)
- Kirsten Coe (Schools Finance Team Lead)
- Phil Clarke (Trade Union Representative) Not present
- Gavin Bailey (Swale Academy Trust)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 01 July 2022 (Approval)

2.1 The minutes for the meeting held were approved as a true record and will be signed by the Chair and scanned to Lesley Leppard.

3. MATTERS ARISING AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Discussion)

3.1 There were no matters arising or declarations of interest.

4. FUNDING FOR UKRAINE PUPILS - Update (Information)

4.1 Forum members were given an overview of the funding for school for Ukrainian pupils, setting out the proposals for allocating funding to schools for children arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Key points.

- The local authority (LA) has opted not to retain any of the funds but instead pass all funds received onto the relevant schools/academies
- LA is now receiving funds in two instalments, September (now received) 25% of funding and October remaining 75% of funding
- Funding available for children arriving after May 31 2022 will be on a pro rata basis

Action: members requested more information on free school meals for Ukrainian pupils. It was confirmed that more information would be sent out, to schools, when known.

5. DE-DELEGATION 2023/2024 (Approval)

5.1 Forum members to be advised which budgets were de-delegated by schools in 2022/23 and seek approval on de-delegated budgets for 2023/24. Primary and secondary maintained school forum members were asked to vote which services should be provided centrally by the authority for 2023/24.

	Primary Phase (5 members)		Secondary Phase (3 Members)	
	No. of 'Yes'	No. of 'No'	No. of 'Yes'	No. of 'No'
Contingency	5	0	2	1
Administration of FSM	5	0	3	0
Jury Service and Union Duties	5	0	3	0
Behaviour Support Services	5	0	0	3

6. IMPACT OF RISING COSTS ON SCHOOL BUDGETS (Discussion)

6.1 An illustrative overview of the impact of increasing cost pressures compared to additional funding received across ESCC schools for 2022/23 was presented to forum members. Information provided was approximate and included some assumptions and extrapolations, with the aim of providing an overview context for ESCC. The illustration was based on maintained schools' data only as this is the only detailed cost information available to officers. As both maintained schools and academies are funded on the same basis and experience similar cost pressures this could reasonably be extrapolated to reflect the impact across all. Forum members were reminded that specific impacts for individual schools would vary and schools had been sent updated guidance on how to adjust plans for the latest pay award announcements so schools could assess individual impacts. Key points made were:

- For 2022/23 ESCC received a 3% increase in funding, for maintained schools this equates to approximately £4.5M (maintained schools accounting for 47% of the total funding awarded to schools and academies in ESCC). A further £4.5m was awarded to maintained schools in the supplementary grant.
- Against this funding the following estimated cost increases will impact in this financial year
- Pay Awards £8m (£3.5m of this additional cost should be included in current plans, an additional £4.5m is the estimated impact of pay awards announced in July in excess of budgeted levels)
- Social Care Levy £1.5m (already included in budgets)
- Energy £2.3m (£1.8m increase already included in budgets, a further £0.5m impact estimated).
- General Inflation £1.5m
- In summary, for maintained schools, against an increased income in the region of £9m, additional costs of £13.3m are estimated. Schools' original submitted budget plans are estimated to have accounted for all of the income increase and £6.8m of the additional cost. A further £6.5m additional cost increases are expected to impact this financial year on top of those already accounted for in budgets. The impact of these increases are compounded in future years.

6.2 Discussion amongst members confirmed the financial pressures and forecasts at individual schools and trusts were in line with the illustration presented with several members expressing their concern and the general feeling was that of unprecedented pressure on schools' finances.

6.3 A question was asked if the social care levy increase is reversed would funding be adjusted. No information/announcement was available to answer this at this time.

- 6.4 Acknowledgement was made regarding the support schools had received around budgeting and adjustments required in response to announcements. Concern was expressed about the impact of the timing of pay award announcements which caused significant additional workload and stress to school staff and significant impact to current year financial plans.

Action: The Chair/ESCC finance to co-ordinate a letter which will be sent to the government/DfE. This is to highlight the requirement for more appropriate timings of announcements, such as pay increases, due to the impact they have on schools' budgets. This was supported by forum members and ESCC officers.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR (Approval)

Forum members were then asked to nominate a Chair and Vice chair for Schools' Forum.

- 7.1 It was agreed by members as follows.
Chair - Hugh Hennebry
Vice chair/s - Jo Foulkes and James Freeston

8. AOB

A farewell from forum members to Tom Scully. Thanks were given to him for his time and commitment to schools' forum.

Meeting concluded at 09:29 am

Next meeting - Friday 18 November 2022 08:30am. Location - Microsoft Teams

Report to: East Sussex Schools Forum

Date: 18 November 2022

Title of Report: Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund

By: Alison Jeffery

Purpose of Report: To update Schools Forum on spend in the 2022/23 financial year and to seek approval for funding for the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommendation:

1. Schools Forum is asked to approve an allocation of £985,000 for the 2023/24 Growth Fund.

1. Introduction

1.1 The 2022/23 Growth and Falling Rolls Funds were approved by Schools Forum on 19 November 2021.

1.2 The Growth Fund supports maintained and non-maintained mainstream schools which are required to provide extra places to meet basic need within the local authority. The fund is provided for:

- Key Stage 1 top-up: paid to schools to enable them to comply with Key Stage 1 class size legislation, which sets a maximum class size of 30 pupils with one teacher. There are a few exceptions where class sizes can exceed 30, but there is no entitlement to Growth Fund, for example, arising from admissions through the Fair Access Protocol.
- Additional classes: where the local authority has made a formal request for a school to set up one or more additional classes or requests a permanent increase in a school's Published Admission Number.
- New school funding: when new schools open in a local authority area, they receive pre-opening funding through a formula to cover costs incurred prior to the opening and diseconomy funding to cover costs incurred while the school fills to capacity. The funding decreases year on year as more year groups in the new school are admitted.

1.3 The Falling Rolls Fund is used to support good or outstanding schools that have temporary, but significant, falling rolls, but where local planning data shows the places will be needed in the near future. It is designed to avoid the need for a school to restructure and then recruit again shortly afterwards. The funding is for maintained and non-maintained schools. The circumstances in which a payment is made from the Falling Rolls fund are:

- The school is judged to be good or outstanding at their last Ofsted inspection (this is a mandatory requirement from the DFE).
- The number on roll has dropped by more than 5% between the October 2021 census and the October 2022 census.
- Local planning data (East Sussex County Council pupil forecasting model) predicts that the number on roll will, in October 2024, be equal to or exceed their number on roll as in October 2021.

2. Growth Fund 2022/23

2.1 The Growth Fund budget for 2022/23 is £1,177,244. This is made up of £724,386 approved by Schools Forum on 19 November 2021 and £452,858 carried forward from 2021/22. The budget was based on estimated Key Stage 1 pupil numbers, the predicted additional classes required for the 2022/23 academic year and the number of new schools that required diseconomy funding.

2.2 In 2022/23, the numbers of schools eligible for either Key Stage 1 top-up funding, additional class funding and new schools funding were:

- 40 primary schools eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 2 primary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 3 secondary schools eligible for additional class funding
- 1 all-through school eligible for new schools funding

2.3 To date, £1,059,999 of the Growth Fund budget has been spent in 2022/23, leaving a balance of £117,245 unspent. The underspend has come about largely because the Key Stage 1 top-up payments were lower than estimated. It is proposed to carry forward this amount to the next financial year, thereby reducing the amount sought in 2023/24

2.4 A summary of spend in 2022/23 is provided in **Appendix A**.

3. Review of the Growth Fund

3.1 At last year's meeting it was agreed that a review of the Growth Fund criteria and funding levels, specifically the additional class funding element, should be undertaken to ensure 'efficiency of the fund'. The review took place in June 2022. Two members of Schools Forum, Hugh Hennebry and Tom Scully, volunteered to take part in the review.

3.2 The review concluded that additional class funding is essential in helping the local authority to manage school places in accordance with its statutory duty by supporting schools to grow in areas of basic need pressure. The review also concluded that the funding rates should be uplifted as they have not changed for several years and do not support current salary levels.

3.3 It is therefore proposed to increase the amount we pay per additional class from April 2023, as set out in the tables below. The new rates are based on the salary scales, rounded to the nearest £500, as per the Growth Fund document. The same salary scales apply to Key Stage 1 funding.

Additional class funding salary support (primary)	Current funding	Funding from 2023/24	Change
April to August	£26,500	£30,500	+£4,000
September to March	£37,500	£44,000	+£6,500
Total	£64,000	£74,500	+£10,500

Additional class funding salary support (secondary)	Current funding	Funding from 2023/24	Change
April to August	£29,000	£34,000	+£5,000
September to March	£42,000	£48,000	+£6,000
Total	£71,000	£82,000	+£11,000

3.4 Currently, the April to August payment is adjusted using the basic per pupil amount of a school's budget to account for pupils who are already being funded in the budget. This is to ensure that pupils are not funded twice. To make this process fairer, we propose using the guaranteed Minimum Per Pupil amount from 2023/24. This will ensure a more up-to-date funding factor is used while continuing to avoid pupils being funded twice.

4. Growth Fund 2023/24

4.1 The proposed allocation for 2023/24 is based on the following assumptions:

- Key Stage 1 top-up funding: the estimated October 2022 pupil numbers and the estimated Key Stage 1 numbers as in October 2023. A 10% contingency has been added to the top-up element to allow for any unforeseen changes.
- Additional class funding: the predicted need for places identified through the annual update to the pupil forecasting model, most recently updated in July 2022 and available in the School Organisation Plan 2022-2026. A 10% contingency has been added to the additional class element to allow for any unanticipated pressures.

- New school funding: one school being eligible for funding

4.2 It is currently estimated that the following numbers of schools will be eligible for Growth Fund support in 2023/24:

- 37 primary schools potentially eligible for Key Stage 1 top-up funding
- 1 primary school eligible for additional class funding
- 3 secondary schools potentially eligible for additional class funding
- 1 all-through school eligible for additional class funding and new schools funding

4.3 In total, the Growth Fund requirement for 2023/24 is £985,000.

4.4 A breakdown of the Growth Fund calculation for 2023/24 is provided in **Appendix B**. The updated Growth Fund guidance document for 2023/24 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

5. Falling Rolls Fund 2022/23

5.1 The Falling Rolls Fund budget for 2022/23 is £42,000. No schools qualify for the fund in 2022/23, so we propose carrying forward the budget in its entirety to 2023/24. As a result, we do not require any additional funding for the Falling Rolls Fund next year.

5.2 The updated Falling Rolls Fund guidance document for 2023/24 will be available online ahead of the new financial year.

6. Conclusion and recommendation

6.1 In conclusion, the report updates Schools Forum on Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund spending in the 2022/23 financial year and sets out the rationale for funding in 2023/24.

6.2 Accordingly, Schools Forum is recommended to approve an allocation of £985,000 for the 2023/24 Growth Fund.

Alison Jeffery

Director Children's Services

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Growth Fund and Falling Rolls Fund summary 2022/23

		KS1 TOP UP	KS1 TOP UP	Add Class Funding	Add Class Funding	Dis economy of scale funding
DfE	Primary School	Apr 22 to Aug 22	Sep22 - Mar 23	Apr 22 to Aug 22	Sep22 - Mar 23	Apr 22 - Mar 23
2050	Alfriston School	£14,819	£20,747			
2054	Brede Primary School		£7,611			
2056	Chiddingly Primary School	£8,117	£11,364			
2071	Laughton Community Primary School	£2,755	£3,858			
2091	St Michael's Primary School, Withyham	£75	£104			
2092	Wivelsfield Primary School				£37,500	
2107	Manor Primary School	£6,777				
3004	Beckley Church of England Primary School	£1,415	£1,981			
3009	Burwash C of E School	£4,096	£5,734			
3022	East Hoathly C of E Primary School	£13,479	£18,870			
3028	Forest Row Church of England Primary School	£9,458	£13,241			
3029	Frant Church of England Primary School		£1,981			
3041	Southover C of E Primary School		£24,500			
3045	Netherfield C of E Primary School	£12,138				
3046	Ninfield Church of England Primary School	£4,096	£5,734			
3048	Nutley Church of England Primary School	£9,458	£13,241			
3049	Peasmarsh Church of England Primary School	£10,798				
3062	Stonegate Church of England Primary School		£1,981			
3068	Firle Church of England Primary School		£22,623			
3072	Icklesham Church of England Primary School		£3,858			
3076	Bodiam Church of England Primary School	£13,479	£18,870			
3077	Iford & Kingston Church of England Primary School	£2,755	£3,858			
3080	Staplecross Methodist Primary School	£6,777	£9,488			
3081	Wadhurst C of E Primary School	£13,479	£18,870			
3092	St Andrew's Church of England Infants School, Eastbourne		£1,981			
3323	Framfield Church of England Primary School	£4,096	£5,734			
3325	St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Hadlow Down	£6,777	£9,487			
3326	St Mary the Virgin Church of England Primary School, Hartfield	£2,755	£3,858			
3330	Little Horsted Church of England Primary School	£6,777	£9,487			
3331	Mark Cross Church of England Primary School	£2,755	£3,858			
3332	Groombridge St Thomas' Church of England Primary School		£3,858			
3335	Holy Cross Church of England Primary School	£4,096	£5,734			
	TOTAL for Maintained Schools April 2022 to March 2023	£161,227	£252,511	£0	£37,500	£0
2007	West St Leonard's Community Primary School	£4,488	£1,981			
2003	Glenleigh Park Academy		£24,500			
2008	Hailsham Academy		£24,500			
2011	The Baird Academy			£13,488		
2021	Breakwater Academy		£1,981			
2023	White House Primary School		£104			
2161	Robsack Wood Community Primary School	£10,994	£13,241			
3035	Hurst Green Church of England Primary School	£75	£104			
3047	Northiam Church of England Primary School	£6,777	£9,487			
3090	St Paul's Church of England School, St Leonards-on-Sea		£13,241			
4026	Beacon secondary			£88,500	£125,400	
4027	Hailsham CC			£29,500	£83,600	£56,000
4046	Seahaven Academy			£59,000	£41,800	
	TOTAL for Academy Schools April 2022 to March 2023	£22,334	£89,139	£190,488	£250,800	£56,000
		£183,561	£341,650	£190,488	£288,300	£56,000
	KS1 Top Up Total	£525,211				
	Additional Class Funding	£478,788				
	Dis economy of scale funding	£56,000				
	Total	£1,059,999				

Growth Fund requirement 2023/24

Funding type	Funding required
Key Stage 1 top-up funding	£586,000
Additional class funding	£488,000
New school funding	£28,000
Net total	£1,102,000
Less carry forward from 2022/23	-£117,000
Funding required in 2023/24	£985,000

Falling Rolls Fund requirement 2023/24

Funding type	Funding required
Carry forward from 2022/23	£42,000
Additional funding required in 2023/24	£0
2023/24 allocation	£42,000

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Report to: Schools Forum

Date of meeting: 18 Nov 2022

Report By: Alison Jeffery

Title: Central School Services Block (CSSB) 2023/24

Purpose: To provide an update on the CSSB allocations for 2023/24

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) Schools Forum are asked to note and approve the proposals for the Central School Services Block for 2023/24.

1 Background

- 1.1 The DSG for 2023/24 will be allocated by the DfE, like 2022/23, into four notional blocks: Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central School Services Block (CSSB). Each block is calculated on a different basis and subject to separate regulations as to eligible expenditure.
- 1.2 This paper specifically relates to the CSSB. This block includes funding that has been allocated to Local Authorities (LAs) to carry out functions on behalf of pupils in both maintained schools and academies and has two distinct elements:
 - **Ongoing responsibilities** This comprises:
 - funds specified by the DfE and retained centrally (Admissions, Copyright (CLA) licenses and Servicing Schools Forum); and
 - funds that were previously known as Retained Duties ESG which, up to 2017/18, the LA received and held separately for its on-going responsibilities to maintained schools and academies.
 - **Historic Commitments** These are what were previously known as “Combined Services” and is funding for previously specified financial commitments.

2 2023/24 On-going responsibilities

- 2.1 The DfE fund On-going responsibilities on a per pupil basis using the Oct census NOR and have increased the funding rate for 2023/24, from £36.43, to £37.26 per pupil.
- 2.2 As with 2022/23, the LA is asking to retain the full amount that the DfE is allocating for 2023/24. Because the overall funding has increased due to a rate increase and not NOR, the increase would be distributed across all of the budget areas.
- 2.3 Table 1 shows the 2023/24 proposals for the ‘On-going Responsibilities’ element of the CSSB which totals £2.36m. (Please note that this is separate from the Schools Block DSG which funds budget shares/ GAGs).

Table 1: Proposals for 2023/24 On-going Responsibilities

Category	Responsibility	2022/23 Allocations	Additional Funds required	2023/24 Proposed Allocations
Specified by the DfE	Admissions	£527,600	£12,200	£539,800
	CLA Licenses	£351,400	£8,100	£359,500
	Schools Forum	£24,400	£600	£25,000
Stat and Reg Duties	Revenue budget preparation, preparation on income and expenditure relating to education, and external audit relating to education. Formulation and review of the LA Schools Funding Formula	£142,400	£3,300	£145,700
	Leadership of Children's services and support staff.	£97,600	£2,300	£99,900
	Planning for the Education Service as a whole.	£128,000	£3,000	£131,000
	Provision of information to or at the request of the Crown other than relating to specifically maintained schools.	£52,000	£1,200	£53,200
	SACRE	£11,500	£300	£11,800
	IA and CFO / S151	£29,600	£700	£30,300
	Consultation Costs relating to non-staffing issues. Plans involving collaboration with other LA services or public or voluntary services	£33,900	£800	£34,700
Asset Management	Management of LA's capital programme including preparation and review of an asset management plan, and negotiation and management of private finance transactions	£98,100	£2,300	£100,400
	General Landlord duties	£10,400	£200	£10,600
Education Welfare	Functions in relation to the exclusion of pupils from schools, excluding any provision of education to excluded pupils. Responsibilities regarding the employment of children.	£117,100	£2,700	£119,800
	School Attendance	£346,300	£8,000	£354,300
Other Ongoing Duties	Places in Independent Schools for NON SEN Pupils	£199,400	£4,600	£204,000
	Employer Contributions for Centrally Managed Staff	£139,500	£3,200	£142,700
	Total	£2,309,200	£53,500	£2,362,700

3. Historic Commitments

- 3.1 The Historic Commitments are funded by the DfE as a lump sum amount, and for 2023/24, the DfE are allocating £2.52m to ESCC for Historic Commitments.
- 3.2 The LA are not intending to use any of this DSG funding element and instead propose to transfer the full £2.52m to schools and academies (Based on Oct '22 NOR).
- 3.3 Table 2 is a summary of the proposals for 2023/24 funding for historic commitments.

Table 2: Proposals for 2023/24 Historic Commitments

Historic Commitments	2022/23 Allocations	CSSB Changes	2023/24 Proposed Allocations
Funds transferred to Schools	£3,151,400	-£630,300	£2,521,100
*Total	£3,151,400	-£630,300	£2,521,100

**Please note that the DfE reduce the Historic commitments value by 20% each year. This means that for 2023/24, the value has reduced by £630k.*

4 Statutory duties for Maintained Schools

- 4.1 LAs are also still able to seek approval from maintained schools to retain some Schools Block DSG (from maintained schools only) to cover the statutory duties that are carried out for maintained schools that were previously funded through the General ESG.
- 4.2 ESCC has not proposed to do this in the past, and given the ongoing pressures on school budgets, we are proposing to continue in this way for 2023/24, although there continues to be financial pressures on the LA with this approach.

5. Summary and Conclusion

- 5.1 This report lays out the proposals for the retention of the £2.36m for 'on-going responsibilities' and the transferring of £2.52m 'Historic Commitments' to schools and academies in addition to their budget shares/ GAG. Schools Forum members are asked to approve these proposals.

Alison Jeffery

Director Childrens Services

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